

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-13 CU-02 AID-05 /076 W

----- 028024

R 051459Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6201

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8975

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH AMERICA DEPT DIRECTOR AT NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

REF: STATE 190919

1. DELIVERED SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO AMBASSADOR JOHNSON EDREMODA, DIRECTOR OF MEA'S AMERICA DEPARTMENT, THIS MORNING. EDREMODA IS RELAYING COPIES OF TEXT TO HEAD OF STATE, COMMISSIONER GARBA, AND CABINET OFFICE. HE ADDED THAT HE WILL HANDLE THE MATTER CAREFULLY AND PROPERLY BECAUSE "WITH THE MILITARY IN POWER THINGS HAVE TO BE DONE JUST SO".

2. I THEN GAVE THE DIRECTOR SEVERAL USIS BACKGROUNDER PAPERS DESCRIBING USG POLICY AND ACTIONS ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. AT A PREVIOUS MEETING WITH ME ON JULY 20, HE HAD EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR AMBASSADOR SANU TO HAVE INCREASED CONTACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT IN ORDER FOR THE FMG TO HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR OFFICIAL THINKING. TOWARDS THIS END I HAD SUGGESTED THAT WE COULD SUPPLY INFORMATIVE MATERIALS DIRECTLY TO EDREMODA IN LAGOS, AND HE HAD ANSWERED THAT HE WOULD TAKE WHATEVER WAS AVAILABLE. TRUE TO THIS STATEMENT, HE SEEMED VERY PLEASED WITH WHAT WAS GIVEN HIM TODAY.

3. I THEN STATED OUR WISH TO INVITE MORE COMMISSIONERS AND  
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PERMSECS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR VISITS WHICH WOULD HELP

THEM IN THEIR FIELD. (COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT AND MANAGER OF RAILWAYS HAVE JUST COME BACK FROM VISITS TO BRAZIL AND JAPAN, TRIPS WHICH THEY CHARACTERIZED AS "FANTASTIC".) THE GUIDELINES FOR INVITING SUCH HIGH LEVEL VISITORS, HOWEVER, NEEDED CLARIFICATION AND UPDATING. EDREMODA ANSWERED THAT SUCH VISITS WERE EXACTLY WHAT WAS NEEDED IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT MEA WOULD FULLY SUPPORT ANY EMBASSY INITIATIVES IN THIS DIRECTION. HE RECOMMENDED THAT THE PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW BE SIMPLE. THE EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH OFFICIALS OF ITS CHOICE AND WHEN A VERBAL AGREEMENT WAS FORMULATED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES, THE EMBASSY WOULD NOTIFY MEA BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE "FOR THE RECORD".

4. EDREMODA THEN POINTED OUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BRIGADIER YAR'ADUA'S STATEMENT IN HIS TELEVISED JULY 29 INTERVIEW THAT THE FMG WAS NOT IMPOSING ANY IDEOLOGY. HE SAW THIS AS GIVING MEA GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH NATIONS. IT ALSO ENCOURAGED EXCHANGE OF PEOPLE, THUS AFFIRMING MEA SUPPORT OF VISITORS GOING TO AMERICA.

5. EDREMODA THEN EXPRESSED THE FMG'S AND HIS OWN PLEASURE OVER THE GARBA-KISSINGER MEETING. HE HAD HEARD IT WAS SUCCESSFUL. REINFORCING NIGERIA'S GOODWILL TOWARD WASHINGTON WAS A BICENTENNIAL CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT FORD. THE LETTER WAS A SINCERE TRIBUTE BUT IT HAD UNFORTUNATELY BEEN CAUGHT UP IN NIGERIA'S BUREAUCRACY AND HAD NOT BEEN SENT OUT UNTIL JULY 12. HE HOPED AMBASSADOR SANU HAD DELIVERED THE MESSAGE BY NOW. A SECOND REGRET WAS NIGERIA'S FAILURE TO SEND PERFORMING ARTISTS TO THE SMITHSONIAN FOLKLORE PAGEANT. AGAIN, THIS WAS PRIMARILY A BUREAUCRATIC SNAFU (LAGOS 8607).  
CAHILL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 190919  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DISCUSSION WITH AMERICA DEPT DIRECTOR AT NIGERIAN FOR- EIGN MINISTRY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NI, US, XA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006